

Hewlett Packard Docket No.: 200315010-1

PATENT

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable in view of US published patent application number 2004/0075978 ("Chen"). Claims 8-17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable in view of Chen and US patent 6,813,148 ("Hsu"). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable in view of Chen.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that *the first slot comprises first and second low sections at the opening and the termination, respectively, and a high section between the low sections, the bottom bearing surface in the low sections defining a first height and the bottom bearing surface in the high section defining a second height higher than the first height.* The added limitation is supported in the original application at Figs. 6-9 and in the written description at page 7, lines 1-10.

The punched-out support strut of Chen, cited at page 4 of the office action, clearly does not satisfy this claim limitation: If the symmetrical void formed by the strut having been punched out is taken to be the "high section," as was apparently proposed by the patent office, then the void does not satisfy the claim limitation for at least the reason that the bottom surface of the symmetrical void is lower than—not higher than—the bottom surface of the low sections. Moreover, the bottom surface of Chen's void is not a bearing surface, as is required by Applicant's claim as amended, because the bottom of the void formed by the punched out support strut does not come into contact with poles 32, nor is it designed to.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 as amended distinguishes over the prior art of record and should be allowed. Applicant does not accede to the statements made in the office action with respect to claims 2-20 but does not make further remarks herein because each of claims 2-20 ultimately depends from allowable claim 1, and is therefore allowable without more. Applicant reserves the right to rebut the statements made with respect to claims 2-20 in a future paper, however, should it become necessary or desirable to do so.

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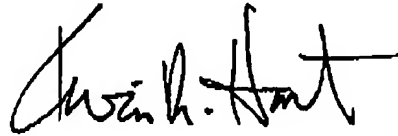
Drawings

Please note: The drawings that were submitted on 10/31/2003 were informal and should not have been approved due to their quality. Applicant will submit replacement formal drawings in a future paper.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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